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ABSTRACT

This report compares the status of women and men on such measures as age, marital status, educational attainment, occupation, income, and poverty status. Findings are based on data collected by the Census Bureau in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. Overall, women slightly outnumber men in the total population, and the sex ratio varies by race and Hispanic origin. The Hispanic population has the highest sex ratio, reflecting their younger age distribution. Women age 65 and older are four times more likely to be widowed than their male counterparts, and men are more likely than women to never have been married. Men are more likely than women to have earned a bachelor's degree or higher. Women and men are not equally represented in all professions. Even though women have made progress in entering occupations predominantly held by men, the majority of women are still in traditional "female" occupations. Earnings differ among men and women, with women more likely to have lower earnings. Income levels vary by family type. Women are more likely than men to live in poverty. Poverty rates are highest for children. (SM)

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Women and Men in the United States: March 2002

Population Characteristics

Issued March 2003

P20-544

Current Population Reports

By
Renee E. Spraggins

This report compares the status of women and men on a number of measures, including age, marital status, educational attainment, occupation, income, and poverty status.[1] The findings are based on data collected by the Census Bureau in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey (CPS).[2]

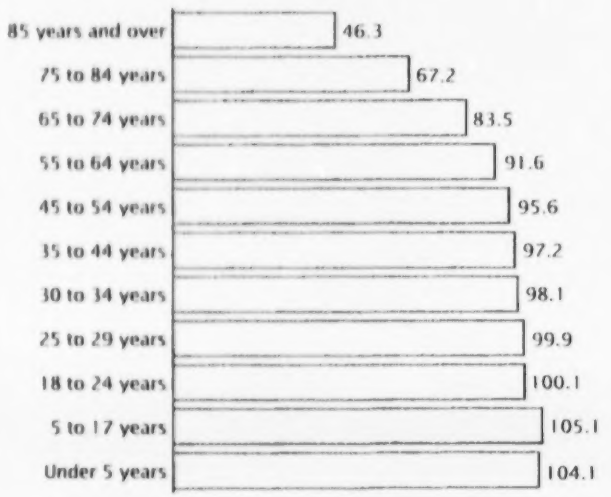
POPULATION SIZE AND COMPOSITION

Women slightly outnumber men in the total population.

In 2002, the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States totaled 282.1 million — 144 million were female and 138 million were male.[3] While 51 percent of the total population were female, the proportions of the two sexes varied by age. At younger ages boys outnumbered girls. Among people under the age of 18 in 2002, the sex ratio (the number who were male, times 100, divided by the number who

[1] The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

Figure 1.
Sex Ratios by Age: 2002
(Males per 100 females)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

[1] Data on income and poverty in this report refer to the calendar year before the survey. For example, income information collected in 2002 refers to calendar year 2001.

[2] The population represented in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 CPS is the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States. Members of the armed forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post are included if there is at least one civilian adult living in the household.

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Demographic Programs

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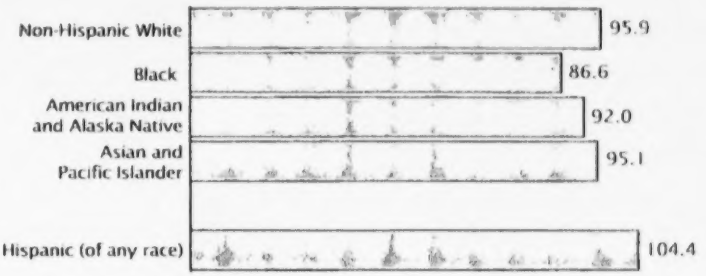
were female) was 105, with nearly 2 million more male residents than female residents. The proportions of men and women aged 20 to 29 were not statistically different. The sex ratio dropped gradually with age: from 98 for those aged 30 to 34, to 92 for the 55-to-64 age group. For the older population, the sex ratio declined rapidly from 84 for the 65-to-74 age group, to 46 for those 85 and over (see Figure 1). Among the population 65 and over, women outnumbered men by 5.3 million.

The sex ratio varies by race and Hispanic origin.

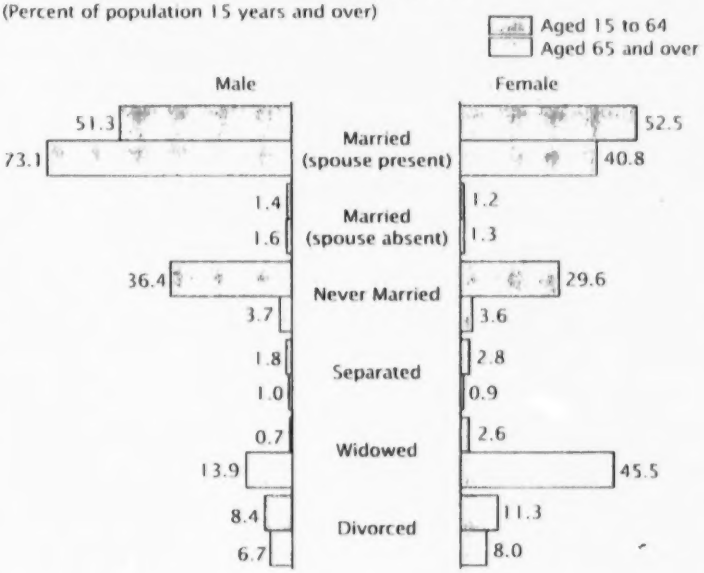
The Hispanic population had the highest sex ratio in 2002, reflecting their younger age distribution (104.4).[4] The Asian and Pacific Islander and the non-Hispanic White populations had similar sex ratios (95.1 and 95.9, respectively), while the American Indian and Alaska Native population had a sex ratio of 92.0.[5] Although not statistically different from the American Indian and Alaska Native sex ratio, the sex ratio of the Black population was lower than that of the other racial and Hispanic origin populations, 86.6 (see Figure 2).

Figure 2.
Sex Ratios by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2002
(Males per 100 females)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

Figure 3.
Marital Status by Sex and Age: 2002
(Percent of population 15 years and over)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

MARITAL STATUS

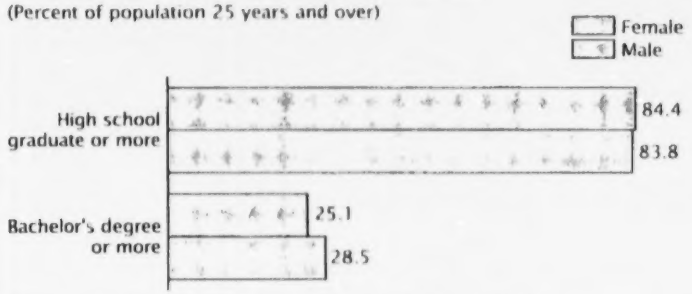
Women aged 65 and older are four times more likely to be widowed than their male counterparts.

In 2002, slightly more than one-half (52 percent) of people who were 15 and over were married and living with their spouses, with men more likely (54 percent) than women (51 percent) to be married. Overall, men were also more likely than women never to have been married (32 percent and 25 percent, respectively). Women were more likely than men to be divorced or separated (13 percent compared with

[4] Because Hispanics may be of any race, data for Hispanics overlap slightly with data for the Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Asian and Pacific Islander populations. Based on the total populations of men and women surveyed in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 CPS, 3.7 percent of the Black population, 8.5 percent of the American Indian and Alaska Native population, and 4.3 percent of the Asian and Pacific Islander population were also of Hispanic or Latino origin.

[5] The sex ratio for the American Indian and Alaska Native population is not statistically significant from the sex ratios for the Asian and Pacific Islander and non-Hispanic White populations.

Figure 4.
Educational Attainment by Sex: 2002
(Percent of population 25 years and over)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

10 percent), and much more likely to be widowed (10 percent compared with 3 percent).

Marital status also varied by age group (see Figure 3). Of the 188 million people aged 15 to 64, women were slightly more likely than men to be married and living with their spouses (53 percent and 51 percent, respectively), while men in that age group were more likely than women never to have been married.

Among the 34 million people aged 65 and over, more than four times as many women (8.9 million) were widowed as men (2.0 million). Among women aged 65 and over, 46 percent were widowed, compared with 41 percent who were married and living with their spouses. Among men in the same age group, 73 percent were married and living with their spouses and only 14 percent were widowed.

Of the 74 million family households in the United States in 2002,[6] 76 percent (57 million) were married-couple families and 18 percent (13 million) were maintained by a woman with no husband present, while just 6 percent (4 million) were maintained by a man with no wife present.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Men are more likely than women to have earned a bachelor's degree or more.

In 2002, 84 percent of adults aged 25 and over had completed high school or more, and 27 percent had completed a bachelor's degree or more (see Figure 4). While the high school completion rates for men and women aged 25 and over were both 84 percent, men were more likely than women to have completed a bachelor's degree or more (29 percent compared with 25 percent). However, women were more likely than men to have some college or to have completed an associate's degree (26 percent compared with 24 percent).

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Women and men are not equally represented in all professions.

In March 2002, 60 percent of women and 74 percent of men were in the labor force,[7] but the proportions of men and women working in certain occupations differed greatly.[8] Over half of men 16 and over (59 percent) worked in four occupational groups: precision production, craft, and repair (18 percent); executive, administrators, and managerial (16 percent); professional specialty (14 percent); and sales (11 percent).

Among women in the same age group, 73 percent also worked in four occupational groups: administrative support, including clerical (23 percent); professional specialty (19 percent); service workers (except private household, 17 percent); and executive, administrators, and managerial (15 percent).

Even though women have made progress in entering occupations predominantly held by men (especially executive and professional specialty occupations), the majority of women were still in traditional "female" occupations.[9] For example, of the 18 million people in administrative support occupations (including clerical), 79 percent were women. In contrast, 91 percent of the 14 million people in precision production, craft, and repair occupations were men.

[6] For a detailed discussion of the definition of family households used in the Current Population Survey, go to *www.census.gov/population/www/cps/cpsdef.html*.

[7] Civilian labor force data shown in this report reflect characteristics of the civilian noninstitutionalized population for March 2002 and are not adjusted for seasonal changes. Data released by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, may not agree entirely with data in this report because they are seasonally adjusted.

[8] The occupational data shown in this report are based on a set of 12 occupational categories. To access data on occupation, see page 8 (under "More Information" section) for instructions.

[9] 1990 Census of Population and Housing, *We the American... Women*, U.S. Census Bureau, Series WE-8, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1993.

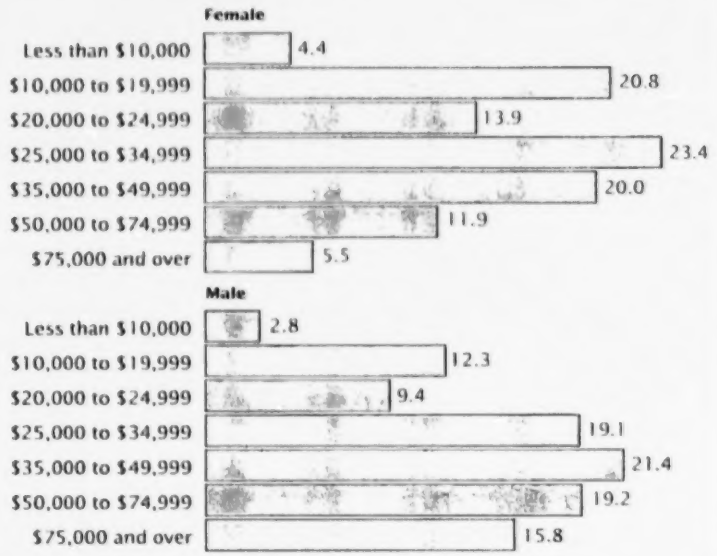
EARNINGS

Earnings differ among men and women.[10]

Of the 100 million people 15 and over who were full-time, year-round workers with earnings in 2001, 41 percent were women and 59 percent were men. Women were more likely to have lower earnings. For example, 4.4 percent of women, compared with 2.8 percent of men, reported earnings of less than $10,000. At the opposite end of the earnings distribution, only 5.5 percent of women reported earnings of $75,000 or more in 2001, compared with 15.8 percent of men (see Figure 5).

Figure 5.
Total Money Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Sex: 2001

(Percent of population 15 years and over)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

FAMILY INCOME

Income levels vary by family type.[11]

Of the 109 million families in 2001, 5 percent had an income below $10,000, 64 percent had an income of $10,000 to $74,999, and 31 percent had an income of $75,000 or more. The type of family also matters, because often both spouses are employed. Among married-couple families in 2001, only 2 percent had an income below $10,000 and 37 percent had an income of $75,000 or more. Of the families maintained by women with no spouse present, 17 percent had an income below $10,000 and only 8 percent had an income of $75,000 or more. In contrast, of the families maintained by men with no spouse present, only 8 percent had an income below $10,000 and 17 percent had an income of $75,000 or higher.

POVERTY STATUS

Women are more likely than men to live in poverty.[12]

In 2001, 12.9 percent of the female population and 10.4 percent of the male population lived below the poverty level. Poverty rates were highest for children: the proportions of boys and girls (those under 18) who were poor were not statistically different (16.4 percent and 16.2, respectively). From ages 18 to 64, the poverty rate was 11.6 percent for women and 8.5 percent for men. For those 65 years and over, the poverty rate was 12.4 percent for women compared with 7.0 percent for men (see Figure 6).

Like income, poverty varies by family type. Of families living in poverty in 2001, 50.9 percent were maintained by women with no spouse present, 40.5 percent were married-couple families, and 8.5 percent were maintained by men with no wife present. The poverty rates were 26.4 percent, 13.1 percent, and 4.9 percent, respectively.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Members of the armed forces living off post or with their families on post are included if there is at least one civilian adult living in the household. (Starting in

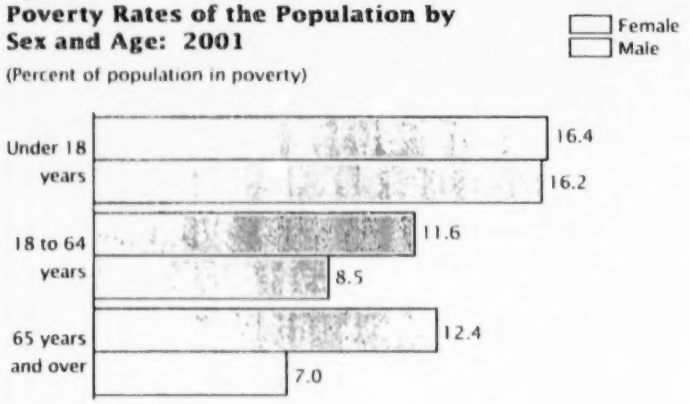
[10] For a detailed discussion on the definition of earnings used in the Current Population Survey, go to *www.census.gov/population/www/cps/cpsdef.html*

[11] For a detailed discussion on the definition of income used in the Current Population Survey, go to *www.census.gov/population/www/cps/cpsdef.html*

[12] For a detailed discussion on the definition of poverty used in the Current Population Survey, go to *www.census.gov/population/www/cps/cpsdef.html*

Figure 6.
Poverty Rates of the Population by Sex and Age: 2001

(Percent of population in poverty)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

2001, the Annual Demographic Supplement includes some data collected in February and April.) The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized population in Census 2000).

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports to minimize these errors.

The Current Population Survey weighting procedure uses ratio estimation whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to *www.bls.census.gov/cps/ad/2002/S&A_02.pdf* or contact Aneesah Stephenson of the Census Bureau Demographic Statistical Methods Division on the Internet at *dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov.*

MORE INFORMATION

Detailed tabulations are available that provide demographic characteristics by sex. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet at the Census Bureau's World-Wide Web site (*www.census.gov*). Instructions for finding the PPL tables can be found on the Web site.

A paper version of these tables, is available as PPL-166 for $20.60. To receive a paper copy, send your request for "PPL-166, Women and Men in the United States: 2002," along with a check or money order for $20.60 payable to "Commerce-Census-8800-9010," to U.S. Department of Commerce — U.S. Census Bureau, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943 or call our Statistical Information Office at 301-763-2422. A copy of these tabulations will be made available to any existing Current Population Report P20 subscribers without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this report.

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